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STATE READY TO SUPPORT SPY MUSEUM  
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State officials announced plans Thursday to put up \$25,000 to help a Willimantic group establish a museum on espionage, but put the plan on hold after learning the museum may not have a home.

Gov. William A. O'Neill announced the state planned to award the money to the Willimantic Museum Association, which had planned to use the former Willimantic Post Office as a museum of espionage.

However, the grant was put on hold after officials in the Department of Economic Development learned the group was unable to get the Post Office building.

Barnett D. Laschever, the state's tourism director, said he would write the group to see if another location had been sought for the museum, which he said could become a popular tourist attraction.

Officials of the museum association couldn't be reached for comment, but Laschever said the group planned a museum that would deal with "espionage and all the little things that go with it."

He predicted the museum, if opened, could prove popular because espionage and spying had held the "fascination of the public for thousands of years."

Laschever said the museum would feature items ranging from articles belonging to Benedict Arnold to a first draft of a modern spy novel. He noted the CIA also is considering establishing a national museum on intelligence.

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**EXCERPTED**